GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:561
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2017
Videorecording of Court Proceedings
Raj Dr. Udit

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to ensure that all proceedings in the Supreme Court, High Courts and District Courts are recorded on video; and
(b) if so, the details thereof along with the progress made in this regard, so far?

Answer

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE AND ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b): The decision on audio-video recording of proceedings in all courts of the country lies within the domain of judiciary. The Government has been receiving suggestions for the implementation of audio-video recording of court proceedings. The issue has also been discussed in the meetings of Advisory Council of National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms. In the meeting of eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India held on 8thJanuary, 2014, Hon''ble Chief Justice of India advised deferment of audio-video recording of court proceedings as this would require consultations with Hon''ble Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts. The matter was again taken up with Hon''ble Chief Justice of India. It was taken up for discussion by the full court of the Supreme Court. However, no consensus on the subject could emerge.

In Writ Petition (Criminal) No.99 of 2015 (Pradyuman Bisht versus Union of India & others), Supreme Court of India sought a report from senior counsel on functioning of CCTV cameras (without audio recording) at Gurugaon Courts and after receipt of report, Supreme Court of India inter-alia directed that at least in two districts in every State/Union Territory (with the exception of small States/Union Territories where it may be considered to be difficult to do so by the concerned High Courts) CCTV cameras (without audio recording) may be installed inside the courts and at such important locations of the court complexes as may be considered appropriate.